(c) whether Government have some proposals to privatise some units of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(d) if so, the names of the units proposed for privatisation;

(e) the proposals before Governemnt to revive Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(f) the total amount of fresh packages proposed to revive RSP and the time schedule for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (f) Modernisation scheme in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is at an advanced stage of completion. The modernised units are under stabilisation. At present, the loss of RSP, based on half yearly results of 1998-99, averages to approximately Rs. 2 crore per day. With stabilisation, the performance of RSP would improve. At present, further major investments in RSP are not planned. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have no firm proposal to privatise the units of RSP. However, SAIL plans to formulate subsidiary companies/joint ventures for non-core units.

Sectoral reforms in steel sector

899. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to effect sectoral reforms including tariff protection to the steel sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) A Working Group had been set up by Government to study the present slow down in the steel sector. The Group has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Working Group, inter-alia include:

(i) Rationalisation of DEPB (Duty Exemption Pass Book) Scheme rates, and extension of the Scheme to 'deemed exports'.

(ii) To consider feasibility of converting ad-valorem rate of import duty into fixed duties on certain finished steel items.

(iii) To consider a combination of measures comprising levy of special import duty on imports of seconds and defectives along with raising duties for certain types of steel upto World Trade Organisation bound rates.

(iv) To consider removal of imports of Seconds and Defectives below a specific floor price, from OGL.

(v) to deal with cases of dumping by establishing a fast track mechanism.

(vi) Withdrawal/waiver of Special Customs Duty of 2%+3% and Special Additional Duty of 4% on input items for steel sector which are not available within the country.

Modernisation of Steel Plant

900. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel plants in the country;

(b) how many out of them are being modernised;

(c) whether help in modernisation of the plants is being sought from the foreign companies or private enterprises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) There are 187 EAF based steel plants in the country.

(b) As per available information, modernisation programme has been taken up in four steel plants in the public and private sector. As most of the steel plants are in the private sector, initiative has to

come from them to modernise and become cost competitive in changed economic scenario.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are enclosed in the Annexure-[*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No, 26]

भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड में रिक्त पद

901. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड (स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इण्डिया) में विभिन्न श्रेणियों में रिक्त पड़े पदों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) ये पद कब से रिक्त पड़े है तथा इन्हें अब तक भरे नहीं जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) सरकार रिक्त पड़े इन पदों को भरने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है; और

(घ) रिक्त पदों को कब तक भर लिया जाएगा?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) से (घ) स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड (सेल) में कोई पद रिक्त नहीं है। तथापि, जनशक्ति को युक्तिसंगत बनाने की दृष्टि से पृथक किए गए कर्मचारियों के कारण रिक्त हुए पद या तो निम्न स्तर पर संचालित हैं अथवा उपयुक्त पदों के साथ समाहित किए जा रहे हैं।

Action plan for construction of houses for the poor

902. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government and other State Governments have submitted any action plan for construction of houses for the poor according to the New Housing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the funding pattern; and

(c) the total number of dwelling units to be constructed in Maharashtra and other States during the first three years 1998—2000 and cost thereof, indicating the Central aid, if any, sought and granted to each State and Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The National Agenda for Governance envisages shelter to all, particularly the poor people. For this purpose, construction of additional 2 million units every year is proposed out of which 7 lakh per year would be for urban areas. States-wise targets have been fixed and communicated to the State Governments for drawing up their Action Plan. State-wise details have been given in the enclosed statement-I (*See* below).

HUDCO would provide financial assistance for construction of 4 lakh urban and 3 lakh rural units each year in accordance with its financing pattern.

(c) Government of Maharashtra proposes to take up construction of 1,27,400 houses in various urban areas of the State through HUDCO's financial assistance, as part of implementation of National Agenda. The State agencies have as on 31.10.98 submitted 18 housing projects for a loan assistance of Rs. 121.43 crores which would help in construction of 10081 dwelling units in the State.

Similar projects form other States have also been received. Details of schemes in pipeline of HUDCO as on 31.10.98 are enclosed as Statement-II.